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The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

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NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, INC.

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DORIS B. GATES, Editor

MRS. BERT SOMERHALDER, Assistant Editor

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Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union as its official journal and sent free to all members who are not in arrears for dues. Subscriptions at \$3.50 per volume in the United States and \$3.75 in all countries, payable in advance. Single numbers, \$1.00 each. All dues and subscriptions should be remitted to the Treasurer, Mrs. O. W. Ritchey, 315 E. 7, Hastings, Nebraska. Orders for back numbers should be sent to the Custodian, Miss Bertha Winter, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska. All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor, Nebraska State Teachers College, Chadron, Nebraska.



Black-capped Chickadee

—Submitted by George Blinco, Chadron

Nesting Of The Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher In Gage County

Dr. C. W. Hepperlin, a retired Bacteriologist of Beatrice, is an ardent bird student and careful observer. This article is based upon the notes in his diary concerning the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Most of the time of this observation the weather was mild. Rain fell intermittently but usually either morning or evening weather was fair and the sandy roads were passable. When Dr. Hepperlin discovered the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers six miles southeast of Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, he called several of his ornithological friends including Mrs. F. J. Patton of Wymore. Misses Vera Anderson and Mary Sturmer and others active in the Beatrice Audubon Society also shared the pleasure of his find and made their own observations.

The following is from Dr. Hepperlin's diary:

July 28—7:00 P.M. One Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was perched on a telephone wire near four catalpa trees one-quarter of a mile from a farm house.

July 29—9:30 A.M. One Scissor-tail at the same place. At 12:30 there were two, and from their actions I surmised there were young or a nest near. At 7:00 P.M. the birds were at the same location. A search for the nest was without results. The actions and voice of these birds were much like the Eastern Kingbird.

July 30—11:00 A.M. One Scissor-tail was in a catalpa tree and the other was perched on a wire. In the evening (6:30) the nest was located in the catalpa tree.

July 31—6:30-7:30 P.M. The birds were making many trips to the nest with food.

Aug. 1—6:30-7:15 P.M. and Aug. 2—9:00-9:30 A.M. Scissor-tails were on the job raising the family. On the second day at 6:30 both adults were at the same location and four immatures were out of the nest and being fed. They appeared to be about two-thirds grown. Their tails were black with a trace of white and were about one inch long. Color of the head, throat, and breast was whiter than that of the older birds.

Aug. 3—10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. All six birds were in the same tree.

Aug. 4—11:00 A.M. The immature birds were in the next tree just west of the tree containing the nest. Older birds were bringing food. At 7:00 P.M. another fledgling was seen making a total of five. Two of the young had flown across the road and were perching in some bushes.

Aug. 5—9:00 A.M. The young were in a plum bush beside the road. They could fly very well. By 4:30 they were all back in the catalpa. About all they did was eat.

Aug. 6—1:30-2:30 P.M. Old birds were working overtime with the feeding. The young could fly very well. By 6:30 in the evening all were gone but one.

Aug. 7—8:30 A.M. There was no evidence of the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, but by 6:30 in the evening they were located in a grove one-quarter of a mile south of the catalpas.

Aug. 8—9:00 A.M. The young were all in one tree of a grove that consisted mostly of locust trees. They seemed to be as large as the adults. The tails had grown much longer, especially the outer feathers. At 3:00 P.M. the young were in the same location and were easy to find because of their constant chirping.

These birds seemed to prefer trees with light foliage and with branches widely spaced.

Aug. 9. Morning and afternoon the birds were in the same grove. They seemed to have external parasites as they were working under their wings and other parts of the body with their bills much of the time.

Aug. 10. All the birds were perched in a small dead tree and were very active. I removed the nest from the catalpa tree. It was located about 12 feet above the ground and was attached in the fork of the tree. It measured three and one-half inches inside diameter and four and one-half inches outside. It was composed of weeds, trash, string, rootlets, and plant down—a poor example of bird architecture. The nest was infested with small lice-like parasites.

Aug. 11. In the morning the birds were very active and by evening (7:00) they were not located.

Aug. 12—9:30 A.M. The birds were located one-half mile south of the last location. The young at this stage of growth looked very much like a Western Kingbird but more white above and pinkish on sides and belly

and no yellow. They were doing much more flying.

Aug. 13—9:30 A.M. The birds were scattered up and down the creek and were very active. It is difficult to describe their action other than they were busy. One young was perched in a locust tree and another on a telephone wire. I have never seen one in a tree with heavy foliage.

Aug. 13—7:00 to Aug. 16 the birds were not seen. Aug. 17 all seven were seen.

Aug. 18—8:00-9:00 A.M. As the young got older they were more difficult to locate. Two young and one adult were located.

Aug. 19—8:00-8:30 A.M. One old bird was seen. The source of food was the adjoining alfalfa field. In only a very few instances were the birds seen gathering food higher than six feet above the ground.

Aug. 26, 1958. No Scissor-tailed Flycatchers had been seen since Aug. 19.

(Mrs. F. J. Patton saw two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers three miles west of Wymore October 5, 1958.)

—Submitted by *Mary Sturmer, Beatrice*

Third Mid-Winter Meeting

The Pawnee Hotel of North Platte was the place of the third Mid-winter Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, January 11, 1959. The day started with the officers meeting in the morning, and later the general session began with a paper by Mrs. Gail Shickley of North Platte. (A condensation of this paper is given elsewhere.) After lunch, papers were given by the following people: Marvin Schwilling of Burwell; Doris Gates of Chadron; W. E. Eigsti of Hastings; Howard Davis and Ole Engelson of Kearney. There were 50 persons in attendance of whom 28 are members.

Following the meeting, a trip was

taken to the area about eight miles east of North Platte on Hiway 30 where a group of as high as 18 Bald Eagles has been seen. They have been known to winter there for several years.

In the evening an informal discussion was lead by Mrs. John Lueshen, President of N.O.U.

The following morning (Sunday) a field trip was held by a few who remained over, and a list of 34 different kinds of birds was compiled.

The program was arranged by Bill Huntley, Secretary of N.O.U. and President of the Tout Bird Club of North Platte. The Tout Bird Club served as hosts to the meetings.

A Monthly Record Of Birds Occurring At Bladen Webster County, 1957 and 1958

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Great Blue Heron					o			†				
Black-crowned Night Heron					*							
Canada Goose			*							†	o	
White-fronted Goose		*	*							*		
Snow Goose			†							o		
Blue Goose			†									
Mallard		†	*	o	o					†	†	†
Pintail		*	*	*	*				*	†	†	
Green-winged Teal					†							
Blue-winged Teal				o	*				†			
Shoveller					o				†			
Lesser Scaup				o						†		
Turkey Vulture				o								
Goshawk								o		o		
Sharp-shinned Hawk			†	*		o			*	o	o	
Cooper's Hawk			*	†				o	*	*	o	o
Red-tailed Hawk		o	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	o	o
Swainson's Hawk				*	*	*	*	*	*			
Rough-legged Hawk	*	o									*	o
Ferruginous Hawk	†	†	o	o	o		†	o	*	*		
Golden Eagle												o
Bald Eagle		o										o
Marsh Hawk	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Prairie Falcon	*				o				†		o	o
Pigeon Hawk						†						
Sparrow Hawk	†	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Greater Prairie Chicken										o		
Bobwhite	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ring-necked Pheasant	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sandhill Crane		*	*	*						*	o	
American Coot				†								
Killdeer			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Common Snipe				†								
Upland Plover				*	*	*	*	*	o	†		
Spotted Sandpiper					†		†					
Solitary Sandpiper					o		o		†			
Greater Yellowlegs				o								
Lesser Yellowlegs				o								
Baird's Sandpiper				†								
Franklin's Gull				*	*	*			o	o		
Forster's Tern							†					
Least Tern						†						

† represents records for 1957

o represents records for 1958

* represents records for both years

[illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bell's Vireo					*	*	*	*	o			
Warbling Vireo					*	*						
Tennessee Warbler					o					†		
Orange-crowned Warbler					*			*	*	*		
Nashville Warbler									o			
Parula Warbler									o			
Yellow Warbler					*	o	o	o	o			
Magnolia Warbler					†				o			
Cape May Warbler									†			
Myrtle Warbler				*	†				*	*		
Northern Waterthrush					†							
Yellowthroat					*							
Yellow-breasted Chat					†				o			
Wilson's Warbler									o			
American Redstart					†				o			
House Sparrow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eastern Meadowlark			o	†	o	o						
Western Meadowlark	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yellow-headed Blackbird				*	*	o		†	†			
Redwinged Blackbird	o	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Orchard Oriole					*	*	*	*	*			
Baltimore Oriole					*	*	*	*	*			
Rusty Blackbird	*	*								o	*	
Brewer's Blackbird			†	o	o					*	†	
Common Grackle			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	o	
Brown-headed Cowbird				†	*	*	*	*	*	*	†	
Cardinal	†	†	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak					*	†						
Black-headed Grosbeak						†	†					
Blue Grosbeak					*	*	*	*	*			
Indigo Bunting						o						
Dickcissel					*	*	*	*	†			
Cassin's Finch								†				
Pine Siskin	o	†		o		o				*	*	†
American Goldfinch	o	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
White-winged Crossbill				†								
Rufous-sided Towhee				o	*				o	*		
Lark Bunting					*							
Savannah Sparrow				*	†				*	*		
Grasshopper Sparrow				*	*	*	*	*	*	o		
Baird's Sparrow				o								
Leconte's Sparrow				o					†	†		
Vesper Sparrow				*	o				*	*		
Lark Sparrow				*	*	*	*	*	*			
Slate-colored Junco	*	*	*	*					o	*	*	
Oregon Junco	†											
Gray-headed Junco				o								
Tree Sparrow		*	*	*	*					*	*	*
Chipping Sparrow				o	*	*	*	*	*	†		
Clay-colored Sparrow					*			o	*	†		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Field Sparrow				*					o	*		
Harris' Sparrow	o	o	*	*	*					*	*	*
White-crowned Sparrow				*	*				o	†		
White-throated Sparrow					†							
Lincoln's Sparrow				o	*				*	*		
Song Sparrow	o	o	*	*	†				†	*	†	
Lapland Longspur	*	*	*	†						*	*	*
Chestnut-collared Longspur	†	†	†	*						†		

—Harold Turner, Bladen

Articles Of Incorporation

I

The name of this corporation shall be NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, INC.

II

The principal place of business of this corporation shall be Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, and the resident agent shall be C. G. Pritchard whose address is 6500 Knox Street.

III

This corporation is not organized for pecuniary profit. The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the study of ornithology by more closely uniting the local students of this branch of natural history and to encourage the study of birds in the State of Nebraska.

IV

This corporation shall commence upon the filing of these Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Nebraska, and shall have perpetual existence.

V

No amount of indebtedness shall be incurred by this corporation in excess of the sum of \$300.00 without the consent of the members expressed by a majority of those present and voting at a regular or special meeting. No amount of indebtedness shall be incurred in any event in excess of the total amount of the assets of the corporation.

VI

This corporation shall not have or issue any shares of stock or declare any dividends, or pay any funds or income by way of distribution to its members, directors or officers. Nothing herein shall prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to members, officers, directors or other persons for services rendered or for other just claims upon this corporation. Upon a final dissolution or liquidation of this corporation, distribution of assets shall be made pursuant to the laws of the State of Nebraska and shall include:

- A. Payment of all liabilities and obligations of the corporation.
- B. The return, transfer or conveyance of any assets held by this corporation upon condition, which condition requires return, transfer or conveyance upon dissolution.
- C. The transfer or conveyance of any other assets to one or more domestic or foreign corporations, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of this corporation. No payment, transfer or distribution under the provisions of this section shall be deemed to be a dividend or a distribution of income.

Membership in this corporation shall consist of persons who have

applied for active, sustaining, or life membership and who have, in addition, paid the prescribed fee for said class of membership. In addition, there may be as many as ten honorary members. All members shall be approved by vote of the members as prescribed in the by-laws. Honorary and life members of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union shall automatically become honorary and life members of Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.

VII

The business of this corporation shall be conducted under these Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the State of Nebraska and such by-laws as may be adopted from time to time by the majority vote of all the members at an annual meeting. Such by-laws shall in no case be inconsistent with the said Articles of Incorporation or laws of the State of Nebraska.

VIII

The Business and affairs of this corporation shall be controlled by the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the officers and the last two former Presidents residing in Nebraska.

All present and acting members of the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union shall continue in office with full power and authority until the next annual meeting succeeding the adoption of this article.

IX

The regular annual meeting of this corporation shall be held on or about the first day of May at such

place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors. Special meetings shall be called by the Board of Directors upon receipt of a petition of at least one third of the members. Notice of any special meeting may be given by postcard addressed to each member at his last known address.

X

This corporation shall have all the power and authority granted to such corporations by the general non-profit corporation law of the State of Nebraska, and such powers as may hereafter be granted by such law or by the general corporation statutes of this State, except as the same may be limited by the terms of these Articles or by the by-laws.

Incorporators: Willetta Lueshen, Gladys Bell Whitmus, Oscar E. Alexis, Bertha C. Winter, Mary Hanson Pritchard, C. G. Pritchard, George W. Keim.

On this 16 day of December, 1958, before me, a Notary Public, commissioned for and residing in said County and State, personally appeared the above persons whose names are written above to me known to be the identical persons who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and they acknowledged the same to be their voluntary act and deed and stated that the facts therein set forth are true as they verily believe.

Witness my hand and notarial seal the date and year last above written. (signed) Genie McGlasson, commission expires 1st day August, 1960.

MAY 16-17, 1959, at YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union will meet with the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. Make room reservations at the Charles Gurney Hotel. Meetings in the City Hall.

Get your *Revised Check-list of Nebraska Birds* from William F. Rapp, Jr., 430 Ivy St., Crete; or from the Custodian, Miss Bertha Winter, 1004 E St., Lincoln. \$1.00.

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union 1959 Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand Jan. 11, 1959 \$639.96

	Receipts		
New memberships, active	29	\$ 87.00	
Renewals, active	61	183.00	
Sustaining	9	45.00	
Life	1	50.00	365.00
Magazine subscriptions	36	118.50	
Interest on bonds		5.00	
Check list cards and copies of <i>Review</i>		6.88	
Balance from Lincoln annual meeting		80.29	210.67
Cash from a bond		96.40	
Sale of <i>Check List</i>		100.00	196.40 772.07

Total \$1412.03

	Expenditures	
W. E. Eigsti—publicity	86.53	
John Bliese—postage	3.50	
Mrs. Mary Lou Pritchard—postage and telephone	6.24	
Doris Gates—editor, supplies and expenses	94.24	
Mrs. John Lueshen—secretary expenses	73.23	
Mrs. Ellen Ritchey—honesty bond, bank charges	7.50	
Grahams—January <i>Review</i>	\$102.61	
April <i>Review</i>	92.63	
July <i>Review</i>	94.64	
October <i>Review</i>	164.82	
Name labels	16.00	470.70
Quiz Engraving—cuts	19.41	
T. C. Lord—award	5.38	
Mrs. Beckett—speaker at annual meeting	50.00	
Printing <i>Check List</i>	450.00	1266.73

Balance on hand January 6, 1959 145.30

Members as of January 1, 1959	
Active	174
Sustaining	16
Life	8
Honorary	8
	206

Investments	
G Bond July 1951	100.00
J Bond June 1952	72.00
J Bond Nov. 1952	72.00
J Bond May 1953	72.00
	316.00

—Mrs. Ellen Ritchey, Treasurer

U. S. Treasury Department
Internal Revenue Service
Washington 25, D.C.
Jan. 26, 1959

Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Inc.
107 E. 27th Street
Kearney, Nebraska
Gentlemen:

It is the opinion of this office based upon the evidence presented, that you are exempt from Federal income tax as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as it is shown that you are organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes.

Accordingly, you are not required to file income tax returns unless you change the character of your organization, the purposes for which you are organized, or your method of operation. Any such changes should be reported immediately to the District Director of Internal Revenue for your district in order that their effect upon your exempt status may be determined.

You are required, however, to file an information return, Form 990A, annually, with the District Director of Internal Revenue for your district so long as this exemption remains in effect. This form may be obtained from the District Director and is required to be filed on or before the fifteenth day of the fifth month following the close of your annual accounting period, which ends December 31.

Contributions made to you are deductible by the donors in computing their taxable income in the manner and to the extent provided by section 170 of the 1954 Code.

Bequests, legacies, devises or transfers to or for your use are deductible in computing the value of the taxable estate of a decedent for Federal estate tax purposes in the manner and to the extent provided by sections

2055 and 2106 of the 1954 Code. Gifts of property to or for your use are deductible in computing taxable gifts for Federal gift tax purposes in the manner and to the extent provided by section 2522 of the 1954 Code.

No liability is incurred by you for the taxes imposed under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) unless you have filed a waiver of exemption certificate in accordance with the applicable provisions of such Act. In the event you desire social security coverage for your employees or have any questions relating to the filing of a waiver of exemption certificate you should take the matter up with your District Director of Internal Revenue.

Your attention is called to the provisions of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 under which your exemption will be revoked if any substantial part of your activities consists of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, or if you participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Failure to file the required information return or to otherwise comply with the provisions of section 6033 of the Code and regulations applicable thereto may result in the termination of your exempt status.

Any reference herein to a provision of the 1954 Code shall be deemed a reference to the corresponding provisions of the 1939 Code.

The District Director of Internal Revenue for your district is being advised of this action.

This ruling also covers your unincorporated predecessor under the name Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Worley

Chief, Exempt Organizations Branch

General Notes

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE AND PRAIRIE CHICKENS.—The Nebraska Game Commission determines population trends of the prairie grouse by counting the number of birds on their courtship grounds each spring. It is of interest that both Sharp-tailed Grouse and Prairie Chickens have been observed courting on the same grounds, although each has a distinctive display. As one might expect, hybrids do occur.

During the past three years (1955, 1956 and 1957), thirteen mixed grounds have been observed by Game Commission personnel.

County	Sharptails	Prairie Chickens	Hybrids
Sheridan	3	2	
Cherry	12	1	1
Cherry	6	1	
Thomas	9	2	
Rock	2	4	
Rock	3	5	
Holt	1	4	
Holt	1	4	
Holt	1	11	
Holt	1	3	
Holt	1	4	
Holt	2	5	
Holt	2	3	

(Gordon Heebner, Nebraska Game Commission, Norfolk, Nebr. compiled the data).

—Submitted by John and Ann Mathisen, Alliance

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO IN WEBSTER COUNTY.—On April 5, 1958, during the last flight of Juncos for the season, I became aware of an individual perched in the bushes on the north side of the house. It ap-

peared to be different in some ways. Observing it closely, I realized that the beak was very light colored—almost a chalky white. Also, it presented a different “tone” in general to the Montana Junco with which I am fairly familiar. Consulting my copy of “A Field Guide to Western Birds,” by Peterson, I was convinced that the bird was a Gray-headed Junco. Thus, I was able to add another “first” to my list.

—Harold Turner, Bladen

PARULA WARBLER IN WEBSTER COUNTY.—On the morning of September 17, 1958, I saw a small warbler alight on the telephone wire. Instantly, I realized it was different from any other I had recognized. The yellow breast seemed to blend into the greenish head and upper parts, but contrasted rather sharply against the white belly. The two white wing-bars were very conspicuous. Checking my Peterson's Field Guide, I was convinced that this bird could be none other than an immature Parula Warbler. The observation was made at very close range.—Harold Turner, Bladen

SOME NESTING NOTES.—June 4 and 5, 1958, a small group of us went for a drive to check on birds in an area near Columbus, with special emphasis on bird nesting. We saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks making a nest along the roadside, listened to a Bell's Vireo singing, and saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker. We saw some Upland Plovers which gave us courage to search the meadow for their nests. There were at least six pairs of Plovers within sight at various times during our search, and we did see and photograph a nest with four eggs.

We came upon deserted blackbird nests in the tall green weeds, and

photographed one nest with three eggs plus a Cowbird's egg. Red-winged Blackbirds are versatile nesters. They nest in buckbrush, trees, cattails, in tufts of grass, on islands out in a bayou or in dry meadows, in heaps of brush along the road, or almost any where. It is no wonder they attain such populations.

We heard Dickcissels singing from many directions, and we came upon more and more Bobolinks. I'm sure we saw at least a dozen males and they acted as though there might be nests, but we did not see one. A quail flew out at one place and we found her nest with one egg and took a picture. This was in a wild meadow by a bayou. There were Yellow Warblers and Yellowthroats also nesting. Eastern Meadowlarks were singing in the vicinity and we saw one nest.

June 15 I observed a pair of Orchard Orioles at work feeding their young in a nest in a dead tree over the water by Trenton. This tree apparently had nests of House Sparrows, Western Kingbirds, and perhaps a Cuckoo nest and a Mourning Dove nest.

I shall never forget my first Dickcissel. He sat on a telephone wire and sang. I remember in the early fifties how you would drive along the road and hear them so often. By the time you would get out of the hearing of one you would be in hearing distance of another. In 1956, the year of the Wauneta flood, they were so thick in the Frenchman Valley that they fairly blossomed in the alfalfa fields which seems to be the most common habitat. They also like railroad right-of-way areas, I think because of the unmolested nesting place.

Last year I had occasion to drive across the state several times during the nesting season and heard them only in the eastern third or fourth

of the state. I had about decided that they had to have a certain amount of alfalfa to consider a nesting site suitable. ow,—this year, I have again driven across the state several times and hear them all along, not as thick as some years, but evenly distributed. Instead of just in the valleys and over alfalfa, also where there is clover, and every wheat field has its share of Dickcissels.

Do you want to be a friend of mine? Just show me a bird nest I don't have in my list of slides.

—Iola Pennington, Wauneta

CUCKOOS.—There have been a number of reports on the unusual occurrence of Cuckoos during the summer of 1958. This seems worthy of special note here. There have been more Cuckoos in the Chadron area, too, and for the first time I saw the Black-billed. The Yellow-billed has been seen other years as well as this.—Ed.

I almost feel justified in reporting the Black-billed Cuckoo as having nested. Speaking of Cuckoos, I seem to have more than usual—both Black-billed and Yellow-billed—around my territory this season.—Harold Turner, Bladen (from letter dated July 17, 1958)

There has been an uncommonly large number of Cuckoos, both Yellow-billed and Black-billed, in my vicinity this year. Also, there have been scads of caterpillars. Usually I only see one or two pairs of Cuckoos each year and then the Yellow-billed most often; but now there seem to be more of the other kind.—Mrs. Morris Cox, Hershey (from letter dated July 30, 1958)

Cuckoos, both Yellow-billed and Black-billed, are very abundant this year.—Mary Sturmer, Beatrice (from card dated August 4, 1958)

My Cuckoos are the Yellow-billed.—Mrs. Oona Bassett, Tryon

Reports have come to me from Beatrice, Lincoln and Sioux City that more than usual numbers of both the Cuckoos have been seen this season. That has also been our experience.—Mrs. John Lueshen, Wisner (from letter dated August 12, 1958)

Dozens of Cuckoos this year.—Mrs. Iola Pennington, Wauneta

(Friends) brought me a Black-billed Cuckoo tonight that had broken its neck on their picture window. Every year I have a record of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but this is only my 5th record of the Black-billed Cuckoo.—Mrs. Paul Heineman, Plattsmouth (from card dated July 11, 1958)

CASS COUNTY NOTES.—Following are some comments from my notebook:

In December, 1957 one of our Bird Club members fed an injured Screech Owl for three weeks. She left it free to go whenever it was ready, and it did one night.

Many Robins were seen all over town in January. In January, too, the Starlings congregated about our chimney—tails in—to enjoy the warm air, I suppose. January 22 I saw a Chickadee take two baths in a heap of snow on a spruce bough. Later it shook itself and preened in a nearby shrub.

The Martin house was closed when the first ones arrived March 31. We opened it that night and they all took possession April 7. Twice I have seen a Martin taking green leaves into the house. They sometimes come to the bird bath to drink and make bathing motions on the edge, but I have never seen one really bathe. May 25 Paul heard a terrible commotion from the house and mindful of a black snake we have in the

rocks, he took a weapon and went up to the house. Just then a Flicker emerged from one of the rooms with a Martin on its back holding on to its neck feathers. They shrieked off into the trees with several other Martins after them. All the week before I had seen a Flicker about, testing out the holes in the courting tree and sitting on top of the Martin House.

The late departure date of the Junco (May 1) interested me.

On May 25 two Mourning Doves left the nest. I hadn't seen the nestlings until they came off. There was always a parent on them. We could touch the nest. Paul mowed and I gardened under it, the children came to see it, but she (or he, at times, I'm sure) held her ground.

Sunflower seeds from the feeder are still eaten by Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Cardinals, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Our bath has a fountain which is left on to drip slowly, so there is always a moist place around it. Robins use it for mud. May 23 there were three busy digging out soil and grasses. The males usually accompany them on their trips back and forth. There seems to be a sort of truce between pairs in the vicinity of the bath.

The White Pelicans on April 24 were a thrilling sight as they moved slowly north. I know 500 is a conservative estimate of their numbers. The different groups, clear across the sky, kept inter-changing and it was impossible to really count them. On June 21 there were several hundred moving slowly southwest.

On June 25 a friend showed me the nest of a Western Kingbird about 15 to 18 feet up in the crotch of an apple tree. It reminded me of a Catbird's nest.—Mrs. Paul Heineman, Plattsmouth

DOUGLAS COUNTY NOTES.—Last Sunday, November 2, 1958, in Forest Lawn Cemetery, I was very surprised to see a Magpie. When I got home and looked in the checklist I saw that it was legal for it to be here, but I don't recall having heard of one here since I started birding in late 1952. November 1 I saw a House Wren along the tracks in Fontenelle Forest. (I really wanted to see a Winter Wren which Mr. Swanson had heard the week before.) It must be about two months since I saw one.

Other than Barn Swallows I saw very few swallows this year, and last year there were noticeably fewer than in '56. I saw fewer Blue Herons, too. Part of this may be due to the higher water in Lake Manawa so that the birds would be below the top of the rushes. Mr. Dokulil who keeps an eye on the heronry on the Gifford property said that there were fewer nests this year than last. But the high water in the lake, with high rushes in it, may be the reason I saw Yellow-headed Blackbirds at intervals all summer when previously I saw them (if at all) only in spring and fall. Wood Thrushes were very scarce this year. I heard them fairly regularly in a few places, but saw them only a few times, while in previous years I'd see them several times any time I went to the Forest. But on the other hand, where in previous years there were Chat territories in only two places in the Forest that I knew of, this year there were about six. I either heard or saw or both the Cerulian Warbler for five consecutive week ends, missed two, and then saw it again on the eighth. If I saw it twice in any previous year I thought I was doing well.

I saw a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest in the Forest April 5 and 12,

but no more on the nest after that although I usually saw them in the vicinity. April 13 I saw a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest in Carter Lake Park, and on each week end through May 10. Before my next trip there was a drowning in the lake near the nest site, and the confusion and crowds may have caused it to abandon the nest. I didn't see it again there. But the day I first missed it at this site (May 18) I saw a Red-shoulder on a nest at the far end of the Lake and saw it there until June 29 when I didn't see the bird but saw a couple of branches with fresh leaves added to the nest. July 6 there was no sign of the bird at the nest. There had been a drowning near this second site during the week. At none of the nests did I ever see any sign of eggs or chicks.

On July 5 and 12 I saw an American Egret at Lake Manawa on a muskrat house, and on July 20 in the lake. It was with a Great Blue Heron on the muskrat house. It was not there on August 3. The second time I saw it, it would lift its wings into a posture that reminded me of pictures of Sandhill Cranes dancing, though it didn't jump. It might have been trying to keep its balance on the muskrat mound, but I doubt it.—*R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha*

DAWES COUNTY.—June 23, 1958, Dennis Carter of Iowa spent a day in the vicinity of Chadron State Park and reported among other things six Pygmy Nuthatches.—Ed.

RESCUED JUVENALS.—A baby meadowlark was hung on a barb of a barbed wire fence. The barb had gone through the flesh on the wing. You could tell by the droppings it had been there a long time. When I got the wing worked off, the bird went to sleep in my hand. The mother

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had kept her family there; the other young were running around on the ground.

I heard a House Wren scolding and when I went out, a House Sparrow was sitting on the little perch. The next morning I noticed a little brown "blob" next to the foundation of the house. I went over to see and it was all four little tiny baby wrens. They had hardly any pin feathers on

them. Had the mother brooded them through the night? We used a narrow teaspoon to put them back into their house. All the time the mother sat on a lilac limb and watched, not uttering a sound. When we were away from the house, she looked in and then sat on the little perch and I never heard such a beautiful song as she poured forth.—*Mrs. Nellie Campbell, Geneva*

Excerpts From Letters

"April 8 I saw a Red-breasted Merganser and a week ago (about August 5, 1958) I saw the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers which Mary Sturmer will have written about. April 23 I was driving past a sandpit lake north of Blue Springs and could hardly believe my eyes when I saw two Ospreys. One was perched in the top of a tall tree and the other was just rising from the lake with a fish in its talons. It is the first that we have ever seen here. Another interesting thing in bird news was seeing a Raven closely when on a trip near Hebron."

—*Mrs. F. J. Patton, Wymore*

"Something I hope you can correct —. The March 25 date for the Brown Thrasher in 1948 should be April 25. I have no March (or earlier) dates for this bird. My May 1 date for the Yellow-headed Blackbird was left out altogether, but by far the greatest blunder was the date of March 21 for Orchard Oriole which should be May 11. The March 21 date evidently was for my Red-winged Blackbird which was printed as May 1. I have no records to date for Orchard Oriole earlier than the first week of May, and only three or four as early as the last week of April for Baltimore Orioles."—*Harold Turner, Bladen*

(This error already appears in the "Twenty-five Year Summary of Bird Migration in Nebraska," *The Nebr. Bird Review*, July, 1958.—Ed.)